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URBAN DISTRICT OF SUNBURY-ON-THAMES



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND THE
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR
1952.

Sunbury-on-Thames Urban District Council



WITH THE COMPLIMENTS OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

COUNCIL OFFICES,
SUNBURY-ON-THAMES.

TELEPHONE: SUNBURY 530/1 & 2209



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PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE 1952

Councillor Miss H.M.Preston, Chairman.

Councillor Sir Cecil Griffin, Vice-Chairman.

Councillors F.V.Brown, F.J.Budd, R. Jelfs, J.H.Kaye,
A.V.Nicholas, E. Rowland, C.W. Stonebanks

and

The Chairman of the Council
Councillor A. T. J. Goddard (Ex-Officio).

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Staff of the Public Health Department

Medical Officer of Health (part-time)

R. Arnallt Jones, B.Sc., M.B., B.Ch., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector:

T.J.Moore, F.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector:

C.W.Wood, M.S.I.A. (Appointed March, 1952)

Student Sanitary Inspector

M.B.Elliott (From March 1952 to March 1953)

Clerk:

Mrs. O. V. Lukyn.

Rodent Operative

W.N.Reeve.

=====

To the Chairman and Members of the
Sunbury-on-Thames Urban District Council,

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of submitting the Annual Report for the year 1952 on the health and sanitary circumstances of the District.

The report summarizes statistics relating to births, deaths, infectious diseases, and inspections, and includes a brief survey of the water supplies, sanitation and other matters relating to the health of the District.

Statistics of births, deaths and causes of death for the year show no significant change.

The District was free from serious epidemics. Excepting pneumonia and tuberculosis, there were no deaths from notifiable infectious disease, over 97% of which were in respect of measles, scarlet fever and whooping cough. Scarlet fever in recent years has been a milder disease than formerly, possibly as the result of diminished virulence of the causative organism and of increased resistance of a better fed and partially immunized population. The incidence of measles and whooping cough was considerably lower than in the previous year but whooping cough in particular is a disease often causing debility, and chronic chest complications are not uncommon. There have been no cases of diphtheria since 1944.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector in his report records, among other items, the inspections carried out during the year and the duties discharged in connection with food and food handling premises.

I take this opportunity of acknowledging my indebtedness to all members of the staff of the public health department for their co-operation in preparing this report.

I am,
Your obedient servant,
R. ARNALLT JONES
Medical Officer of Health.

Council Offices,
Sunbury-on-Thames.
August, 1953.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS
RELATING TO THE URBAN DISTRICT OF SUNBURY-ON-THAMES 1952

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,615
Population (estimated by the Registrar-General for 1952)	...	...	...	...	...	...	23,820
Rateable Value (1-4-52)	...	...	...	...	...	...	£246,735
Estimated product of a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£1,000
Live Births	...	...	...	...	...	...	429
Birth Rate (live births) per 1,000 population (England & Wales 15.3)	...	...	...	...	...	...	18.01
Stillbirths	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total births	...	...	...	...	...	...	18.3
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 population (England & Wales 0.35)	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.33
Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	...	223
Death rate per 1,000 population (England & Wales 11.3)	...	...	...	...	...	...	9.3
Deaths from maternal causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths under 1 year of age	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 live births (England & Wales 27.6)	...	...	...	...	...	...	32.6
Chief causes of death:							
Cardio-vascular lesions						102	
Malignant new growths						39	
Pneumonia & Bronchitis						28	

Area Comparability Factors: Births 0.94
 Deaths 1.13

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1952

Live Births

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Legitimate	205	196	401
Illegitimate	16	12	28
	<u>221</u>	<u>208</u>	<u>429</u>

Birth rate per 1,000 of the population - 18.01

Comparative figures relating to Sunbury-on-Thames,
London, Great Towns and England & Wales are given in
the following table:

	Sunbury-on-Thames		London	Great Towns	England & Wales
Year	No. of live births	Rate per 1,000 population	Rate per 1,000 population		
1948	411	18.5	20.1	20.0	17.9
1949	389	17.3	18.5	18.7	16.7
1950	396	17.09	17.8	17.6	15.8
1951	411	17.7	17.8	17.3	15.5
1952	429	18.01	17.6	16.9	15.3

The previous table gives the crude rates. When comparing the rate of one district with that of another, allowances should be made for the age and sex distribution of the population and a standardised rate obtained which is the product of the crude rate and the area comparability factor. In this district the standardised birth rate is 18.01×0.94 i.e. 16.9

Still Births

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	3	5	8
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total births	...	...	18.3
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 population	...	...	0.33
(England & Wales 0.35)			

Deaths (All ages)

Males

123

Females

100

Total

223

Death rate per 1,000 of the population - 9.3

The following table gives comparative figures relating to Sunbury-on-Thames, London, Great Towns and England & Wales:

Year	Sunbury-on-Thames		London	Great Towns	England & Wales
	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 population	Rate per 1,000 population		
1948	194	8.7	11.6	11.6	10.8
1949	178	7.9	12.2	12.5	11.7
1950	194	8.3	11.8	12.3	11.6
1951	246	10.6	13.1	13.4	12.5
1952	223	9.3	12.6	12.1	11.3

The standardised death rate is 9.3×1.13 i.e. 10.5

The chief cause of death in infancy was Pneumonia whereas in older children accidents were the chief cause.

Nearly half the deaths over 65 were due to diseases of the heart and blood vessels.

The lung and bronchus were the principal sites of fatal malignant disease.

CAUSES OF DEATH
REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S OFFICIAL RETURN FOR THE YEAR 1952

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	1	2
2. Tuberculosis, other	-	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease	-	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
8. Measles	-	-	-
9. Other infective & parasitic diseases	1	0	1
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	3	6
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	10	3	13
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	0	2	2
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	0	2	2
14. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	9	7	16
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	0	1
16. Diabetes	0	2	2
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	16	10	26
18. Coronary disease, angina	23	11	34
19. Hypertension with heart disease	3	4	7
20. Other heart disease	5	8	13
21. Other circulatory disease	7	15	22
22. Influenza	2	0	2
23. Pneumonia	8	6	14
24. Bronchitis	6	5	11
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	1	2	3
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	6	0	6
27. Gastritis, enteritis & diarrhoea	0	1	1
28. Nephritis & nephrosis	1	1	2
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	1	0	1
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	1	3	4
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	12	11	23
33. Motor vehicle accidents	1	2	3
34. All other accidents	4	1	5
35. Suicide	1	0	1
36. Homicide and operations of War	-	-	-

All causes

123

100

223

CAUSES OF DEATH BY AGE GROUPS

Causes	0-	1-	5-	15--	45--	65--
Tuberculosis, respiratory					1	1
Acute poliomyelitis						
Other infective & parasitic diseases	1					
Malignant neoplasm. - stomach				1	4	1
" " - lungs, bronchus					2	11
" " - breast					1	1
" " - uterus					2	
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms				4	4	8
Leukaemia, aleukaemia				1		
Diabetes						2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	1			1	8	16
Coronary disease, angina				2	5	27
Hypertension with heart disease						7
Other heart disease			1	2	5	5
Other circulatory disease					6	16
Influenza						2
Pneumonia	8					6
Bronchitis					1	10
Other diseases of respiratory system						3
Ulcer of stomach & duodenum						6
Gastritis, enteritis & diarrhoea						1
Nephritis & nephrosis					1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate						1
Congenital malformations	2				1	1
Other defined & ill-defined diseases	2			1	2	18
Motor vehicle accidents		1	1		1	
All other accidents		1	1	1	1	1
Suicide				1		
TOTALS	14	2	3	14	45	145

DEATHS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE

	<u>Legitimate</u>	<u>Illegitimate</u>	<u>Total</u>
Males	8	1	9
Females	5	-	5
	<u>13</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>14</u>

Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 live births - 32.6
(England & Wales - 27.6)

The following table gives comparative figures relating to Sunbury-on-Thames, London, Great Towns and England & Wales -

Infant Mortality Rates

Year	Sunbury-on-Thames			London	Great Towns	England & Wales
	Births	Deaths under 1 yr	Rate per 1000 live births			
1948	411	15	36.4	31	39	34
1949	389	7	17.9	29	37	32
1950	396	7	17.6	26	33	29
1951	411	11	26.8	26.4	33.9	29.6
1952	429	14	32.6	23.8	31.2	27.6

Causes of death under 1 year of age

Causes	Under 4 weeks		Over 4 weeks		Total
	M	F	M	F	
Pneumonia	3	-	3	2	8
Prematurity	1	1	-	-	2
Congenital malformations	1	1	-	-	2
Streptococcal infection	-	-	1	-	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage	-	1	-	-	1
TOTALS	5	1	4	2	14

The chief cause of death was Pneumonia. Five of the deaths occurred in infants under 4 weeks old.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

The following cases were notified during 1952:

Scarlet Fever 29 cases. 4 sent to Hospital. None fatal.

Whooping cough 15 cases. None fatal.

Measles 141 cases. None fatal.

Meningococcal Infection One case. Sent to Hospital. Recovered.

Pneumonia 2 cases. Both sent to Hospital. Recovered.

Erysipelas 1 case. Sent to Hospital. Recovered.

The following infectious diseases were brought to the notice of the Department by Head Teachers: -

Chickenpox	...	...	...	...	111
Whooping cough	...	...	...	...	2
Measles	...	...	...	...	57
Mumps	...	...	...	...	1
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	20
Impetigo	...	...	...	...	8
Scabies	...	...	...	...	2
Conjunctivitis	...	...	...	...	1

Diphtheria There have been no cases since 1944.

Immunisation I am indebted to the Area Medical Officer for the information tabulated hereunder regarding immunisations carried out in 1952 -

Age at date of notification	No. of children immunised against diphtheria
Under 1 year	127
1 - 4 years	67
5 - 14 years	45
Total	239

In addition, 426 children received re-inforcing injections.

The Numbers, after correction, of cases of Infectious Disease notified in 1952, classified according to sex and age, are shown in the following table: -

Age group years	Scarlet fever		Whooping cough		Measles		Meningo coccal Inf.		Pneumonia		Erysipelas	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 - 1			0	1	2	1	1	0	1	0		
1 -	0	1	2	0	9	6						
2 -	2	1	0	1	9	9						
3 -	3	1	2	2	9	11						
4 -	2	1	1	0	15	9						
5 -	8	9	2	4	23	32			1	0		
10 -	0	1			2	0						
15 -					1	1						
20 -					0	1						
25 -					1	0					1	0
35 -												
45 -												
65 -												
Totals	29		15		141		1		2		1	
Adm to Hosp.	4		-		-		1		2		1	
Noti. per 1000 pop.	1.21 (1.53)		0.629 (2.61)		5.9 (8.86)		0.041 (0.03)		0.083 (2.72)		0.041 (0.14)	

(Figures for England & Wales in brackets)

The following table shows the number of cases of Infectious Disease notified in each month in 1952

Month	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Measles	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Meningo-coccal Infection
January	1	1	9			
February	2		41		1	
March	1		58			1
April		9	12			
May	5		2			
June			2	1		
July	8		1			
August	2		3	1		
September	1	1				
October	6					
November	1	1	3			
December	2	3	10			
TOTALS	29	15	141	2	1	1

The number of cases notified in the past 5 years are as follows:

Disease	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
Erysipelas					1
Scarlet Fever	32	21	34	19	29
Whooping Cough	48	25	83	109	15
Measles	157	125	147	536	141
Pneumonia	1				2
Dysentery				2	
Ac. Poliomyelitis		3			
Infective Encephalitis		1		1	
Food Poisoning			3		
Typhoid Fever			1		
Para-Typhoid Fever B			3		
Meningococcal Infection	1	1		1	1

TUBERCULOSIS 1952

<u>Age periods</u>	<u>New cases notified</u>				<u>Deaths</u>			
	<u>Pul.</u>		<u>Non-Pul.</u>		<u>Pul</u>		<u>Non-Pul</u>	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year								
1 - 4								
5 - 10								
11 - 15	1	1						
16 - 20	3	2						
21 - 25	1	1						
26 - 35		2	-	2	1			
36 - 45	4	3						
46 - 55	2	1						
56 - 65					1			
66 & upwards	1	-						
Totals	12 - 10		- 2		2			

Number of cases who have moved into the District	...	...	8
during 1952			
Number of cases who have moved to other District	...	...	1
or who have been 'lost sight of' during 1952			
Number of cases removed from Register as	Nil
'Recovered'			
Number of cases 'Restored to Register'	2

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SANITARY CONDITIONS AND ADMINISTRATION

WATER SUPPLY This is adequate in quantity and is not plumbo-solvent. About 200 dwellings draw their supply from shallow wells; the remainder are provided by the following Water Companies:

- (a) The Metropolitan Water Board supplying Sunbury, Sunbury Common, Upper Halliford and Charlton.
- (b) The West Surry Water Company supplying Shepperton and Littleton.
- (c) The South West Suburban Water Company supplying Ashford Common.

The water thus supplied is derived from the River Thames, and, after passing through storage reservoirs it is filtered and chlorinated. Samples of water are collected by the Water Companies at the various stages of purification at frequent intervals, and are examined chemically and bacteriologically. Laboratory reports kindly supplied by the Chief Officers of the Water Companies show the water going into supply is wholesome in character and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes. The following is a report on a typical sample: (chemical results are shown in parts per million)

Reaction (p.H)	...	...	...	...	7.9
Electric Conductivity	...	...	...	...	475
Hardness (Total)	...	...	...	...	259
Hardness (Permanent)	...	...	...	...	62
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	...	0.088
Free Ammonia	...	...	...	...	0.022
Nitrates	...	...	...	...	4.0
Nitrites	...	...	...	Less than	0.01
Oxygen absorbed	...	...	...	...	1.09 in 3 hours at 27°C.
Chlorides as Chlorine	...	...	...	...	24.0
Lead	...	...	...	...	Nil
No. of microbes/ml on agar plate after 24 hours at 37°C	...	...	...	...	7.0
Bact. Coli/100 ml.	...	...	...	...	0.004

Particulars are given in the following table of the approximate number of dwelling places and of the number of the population supplied from public water mains (a) direct to the dwellings, (b) by means of standpipes -

	Number of dwellings	Population
Direct to the dwellings	6,690	22,630
By means of standpipes	150	506

REFUSE

The Council undertake the collection of household refuse and this is disposed of, under controlled conditions, on land reclaimed from a gravel pit in the area.

GRAVEL PITS

The filling-in of several gravel pits by the deposit of materials, mainly builders' refuse, continued throughout the year. Regular inspections of the pits were made and no serious nuisance arose.

OPEN AIR SWIMMING BATH

The water is drawn from the River Thames and without prior filtration passed into the bath where it is chlorinated. Daily tests are made for chlorine content and turbidity; chlorine is added daily as required. The bath is emptied, cleansed and refilled on Mondays and Fridays.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948 - Section 47, and

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) ACT 1951. Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention. No action was found to be necessary under these Acts.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY COUNCIL ACT 1944 - Section 357

(Massage and Special Treatment)

Licences granted	...	...	...	...	4
Licences refused	...	...	...	...	Nil

FACTORIES ACT 1937 The following table shows the work carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors under this Act; -

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecutions
Factories with mechanical power	80	59	-	Nil
Factories without mechanical power	9	2	-	Nil
Totals	89	61	-	Nil

Defects found	...	...	...	...	Nil.
Defects referred by H.M. Inspector	...	...	...	...	Nil.

Outworkers

There are 31 outworkers on the register whose occupations include needlework, knitting and shoe-making.

FOOD

Food and food handling premises (including hotels, restaurants and stalls) ice-cream vendors and hawkers of food and vegetables were kept under supervision. As the result of advice given, improvements in the standard of hygiene were effected in many instances.

There were no cases of food poisoning notified. It is probable that some cases pass unrecorded where the symptoms are mild and of short duration and medical advice has not been sought.

It was not found necessary to take statutory action under powers available under the Food & Drugs Act 1938.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES

Licences have been issued in respect of two slaughterhouses in the District. No regular slaughtering of animals has been carried out at one, but a regular slaughter of horses intended for food for human consumption has been continued at the other.

In addition, one licence has been issued in respect of premises in use as a knacker's yard.

31 visits were made by Sanitary Inspectors to slaughterhouses and knackers' yards during the year.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cows	Calves	Sheep and lambs	Pigs
Number killed	1			28
Number inspected	1			28
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis</u>				
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	-	-	-	7.142
Tuberculosis only	N	I	L	

In addition to the above 448 horses were slaughtered in the District; of these, 2 horses were found to be totally unfit and 41 horses were found to have some part or organ unfit for human consumption.

Further details of the work carried out in relation to Milk and other foods are given in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

I am indebted to the Chief Officer of the Public Control Department of the Middlesex County Council for the following report as to samples purchased in this District during 1952: --

Article	Total Samples	Samples Unsatisfactory
Arrowroot	2	-
Brandy	2	1
Cake	1	-
Clove	1	-
Drugs	4	-
Fish	6	-
Gin	4	2
Milk	12	-
Rum	5	2
Sausage & sausage meat	4	1
Tomato Soup	1	-
Vinegar	9	-
Whiskey	21	3
<u>Totals</u>	<u>72</u>	<u>9</u>

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1952

To the Chairman and Members of the
Urban District Council of Sunbury-on-Thames:

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my report upon the work of the Sanitary Inspectors of the Urban District during the year 1952.

The work of the department proceeded smoothly and steadily throughout the year and although one cannot claim spectacular results much has been done to raise the hygienic standard of housing, food handling, etc.

The effectiveness of the health services, particularly that part for which your Sanitary Inspectors are responsible, cannot be immediately assessed but it does bear reflection in the future well-being and happiness of the community.

I desire to record once again my appreciation of the co-operation and support of the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee, Dr. R.A.Jones, the Medical Officer of Health, and all members of the Public Health staff. Also to thank the Officers of other Departments for their unvarying courtesy and help.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

T. J. MOORE.

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

COMPLAINTS No less than 491 complaints were received, relating to the state or condition of premises, as follows:

Condition of premises	...	...	...	116
Choked or defective drains	...	...	...	43
Camping	...	...	...	8
Rats and Mice	...	...	...	170
Keeping of animals	...	...	...	10
Offensive accumulations	...	...	...	13
Verminous premises	...	...	...	34
Smoke nuisances	...	...	...	4
Unsound food	...	...	...	48
Complaints not classified	...	...	...	45

491

These were promptly investigated and in cases in which the Council had power to interfere, the necessary steps were immediately taken to remove the cause of the complaint.

INSPECTIONS During the year, 2,964 inspections or visits to premises were made by your inspectors for the enforcement of the Public Health, Food & Drugs, Shops, Housing and the Prevention of Damage by Pests Acts.

Inspection of Council houses and requisitioned property	7
Inspection of premises	186
Re-inspection of premises	527
Housing applications, overcrowding, etc.	96
Drainage	222
Dirty and verminous conditions	32
Factories - mechanical power	46
Factories - non-mechanical power	6
Shops and Food Preparing premises	166
Milk shops and dairies	18
Ice Cream premises	38
Cafes	18
Street traders	8
Shops Acts	100
Slaughterhouses and knackers' yards	31
Moveable dwellings	71
Gipsy camping sites	72
Tips	159
Rodent control	149
Water supplies	58

cont.

Infectious disease	23
Keeping of animals	114
Accumulations	63
Petroleum Stores	60
Bakehouses	23
Rag Flock Act inspections	2
Unsound food	47
Workplaces	3
Meat inspection	186
Licensed premises	11
Nuisances from effluvia	7
Dustbins	108
Welfare	39
Visits not classified	278
Total	<u>2964</u>

NOTICES SERVED DURING THE YEAR

	<u>Verbal</u>	<u>Preliminary</u>	<u>Statutory</u>
Public Health & Housing Acts	9	108	5
Food & Drugs Acts 1938-1950	1	7	-

HOUSING STATISTICS

The housing statistics of the year are set out below:

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:
 - i. (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 186
 - (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 713
 - ii. Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation Nil
 - iii. Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respect reasonably fit for human habitation 118
2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notices:
 - Number of defective dwelling-houses made fit as the result of informal action 45

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:
- (a) Proceedings under Section 9 of the Housing Act 1936:
- i. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs: 1
 - ii. Number of dwelling-houses made fit after service of formal notice:
 - (a) By owners 1
 - (b) By local authority in default of owners -
- (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:
- i. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 4
 - ii. Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:
 - (a) By owners 4
 - (b) By local authority in default of owners -
- (c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act 1936: Nil
- (d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act 1936: Nil
- (e) Proceedings under section 75 of the Public Health Act 1936:
- 1. Number of dwelling-houses provided with dustbins by owners or occupiers -
 - (a) After service of informal notice ... 28
 - (b) After service of Statutory notice... Nil
 - ii. Number of dwelling-houses provided with dustbins by local authority in default of owners or occupiers: Nil

COUNCIL HOUSES

Following the usual practice, Housing Estates under the control of the Council have received attention.

Complaints were in all cases promptly investigated and where necessary, works of repair were carried out under the supervision of your Surveyor.

In 7 instances measures were taken for the eradication of wood worm or noxious insects.

Investigation of the living conditions of all applicants for Council Houses who are living within the Urban District have been made by Miss E.L.Chitham.

During the year the Housing (Letting) Sub-Committee interviewed 175 applicants and the number of families rehoused was 85, but notwithstanding this, the number of applicants rose from 1,191 to 1,310 in the year.

DISINFECTIONS AND DISINFESTATIONS

(a) Disinfections were carried out in the following instances:

Premises - Infectious disease -	3
Clothing or bedding -	3
Books -	2

(b) Disinfestations were necessary in the following instances:

Premises - Bed bugs -	4
Wasp nests -	12
Others -	3

Observation was again maintained on the Council's Refuse Tip for crickets and other vermin and treatment was forthwith carried out when any infestation was found.

RODENT CONTROL

Complaints regarding the presence of rats and/or mice were given immediate attention and the methods advocated by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries to deal with the problem of rats and mice infestation applied.

Excellent work has been carried out by your Rodent Operative Mr. V.N. Reeve and it is gratifying to report that none of the infestations dealt with during the year were of "reservoir" type.

During the twelve months ended 31st December 1952, the following work was carried out under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949: -

Complaints received	170
Visits to premises by Sanitary Inspectors	149
Visits to premises by Rodent Operatives	1642
Premises disinfested for - rats ... 224	253
mice ... 29	

The yearly sewer maintenance treatment was carried out and an extensive pre-baiting indicated the absence of rats in the sewers of the District.

RIVERS, STREAMS, PONDS AND DITCHES

Under the supervision of your Sanitary Inspector, several ponds, stagnant pools and ditches were sprayed with oil or special solution to prevent the breeding of mosquitoes.

TENTS, VANS AND SIMILAR STRUCTURES

These premises again received attention and appropriate action was taken to suppress nuisance. In several instances, vans occupied by persons of the nomad type were brought into the District and attempts to form colonies were made at Charlton Road, Ashford Common and Charlton Road, Shepperton, but, with the assistance of the Police, your inspectors were able to frustrate the attempts.

Difficulty has been experienced in dealing with the weekend camper. The prevention of abuses and the control of these temporary camps in the absence of proper conveniences, is a serious problem and almost an impossible task.

INSPECTION OF FOOD AND SUPERVISION OF
FOOD HANDLING PREMISES

The following inspections have been made of premises where food is handled, stored or exposed for sale: -

Ice Cream premises	...	38
Milk shops and dairies	...	18
Cafes	...	18
Other food premises	...	166

The following is a list of foodstuffs condemned as unfit for human consumption and either destroyed by Officers of the Department or salvaged in accordance with instructions laid down by the Ministry of Food: -

Meat (home killed)	1,887lbs
Bacon	9½lbs
Fish	299lbs
Coconut	80lbs
Sausages	15lbs
Canned meat	113 tins
Miscellaneous canned foodstuffs	229 tins
Canned milk	1 tin
Processed peas	1 carton
Soup	8 packets
Dates	1 packet
Barley crystals	5 packets
Baby Food	1 packet
Semolina	11 packets

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION)
(PASTEURISED AND STERILISED) REGULATIONS 1949 - 1950

Licences were issued for the sale of special designated milk under the above regulations. Licences in force are as follows: -

Authorising sale of milk by dealers under special designation "Pasteurised"	5
Authorising sale of milk under Supplementary Licence and the use of the special designation "Pasteurised"	2
Authorising sale of milk by dealers under special designation "Sterilised"	11
Authorising sale of milk under Supplementary Licence and the use of the special designation "Sterilised"	3

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION)
(RAW MILK) REGULATIONS 1949 - 1950

Licences were issued for the sale of special designated milk under the above regulations. Licences in force are as follows: -

Authorising sale of milk by dealers under special designation "Tuberculin Tested"	5
Authorising sale of milk under Supplementary Licence and the use of the special designation "Tuberculin Tested"	3

ICE CREAM

There are 79 premises in the District registered for the sale and storage of ice cream. One of these premises is also registered for the manufacture of ice cream.

38 visits were made to ice cream premises during the year. 11 samples of ice cream were taken during the year and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service for testing by means of the Methylene Blue Test. The results were as follows:

Grade 1	7
Grade 2	3
Grade 3	-
Grade 4	1

Grades 1 and 2 indicate a satisfactory standard. Grade 3 unsatisfactory and Grade 4 most unsatisfactory. It was not found necessary to take formal action under the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment etc.) Regulations 1947 and 1948.

